



Billing Code: 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Programs - Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk for the period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

DATES: Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vivian Lees, Branch Chief, Operational Support Branch, Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), USDA, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302, or by phone at (703) 305-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This notice has been determined to be not significant and was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget in conformance with Executive Order 12866.

The affected programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556, No. 10.558 and No. 10.559 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 2 CFR 415.3-415.6).

Background

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR part 226) and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines

and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in accordance with applicable program rules.

Definition of Income

In accordance with the Department's policy as provided in the Food and Nutrition Service publication Eligibility Manual for School Meals, "income," as the term is used in this notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions and bonds. It includes the following: (1) monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources that would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income," as the term is used in this notice, does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs that are excluded from consideration as income by any statutory prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in section 12(e) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e)

and 1780(b)).

The Income Eligibility Guidelines

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2015 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar.

This notice displays only the annual Federal poverty guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services because the monthly and weekly Federal poverty guidelines are not used to determine the Income Eligibility Guidelines. The chart details the free and reduced price eligibility criteria for monthly income, income received twice monthly (24 payments per year), income received every two weeks (26 payments per year) and weekly income.

Income calculations are made based on the following formulas: monthly income is calculated by dividing the annual income by 12; twice monthly income is computed by dividing annual income by 24; income received every two weeks is calculated by dividing annual income by 26; and weekly income is computed by dividing annual income by 52. All numbers are rounded upward to the next whole dollar. The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four in the 48 contiguous States, the District of Columbia, Guam and the territories represent an increase of 1.7 percent over last year's level for a family of the same size. The income eligibility guidelines table follows below.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES												
Effective from: July 1, 2015							To: June 30, 2016					
HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	REDUCED PRICE MEALS - 185 %					FREE MEALS - 130 %					
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY	
48 CONTIGUOUS STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM AND TERRITORIES												
1	11,770	21,775	1,815	908	838	419	15,301	1,276	638	589	295	
2	15,930	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567	20,709	1,726	863	797	399	
3	20,090	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503	
4	24,250	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607	
5	28,410	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711	
6	32,570	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815	
7	36,730	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	
8	40,890	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	
For each additional family member add	4,160	7,696	642	321	296	148	5,408	451	226	208	104	
ALASKA												
1	14,720	27,232	2,270	1,135	1,048	524	19,136	1,595	798	736	368	
2	19,920	36,852	3,071	1,536	1,418	709	25,896	2,158	1,079	996	498	
3	25,120	46,472	3,873	1,937	1,788	894	32,656	2,722	1,361	1,256	628	
4	30,320	56,092	4,675	2,338	2,158	1,079	39,416	3,285	1,643	1,516	758	
5	35,520	65,712	5,476	2,738	2,528	1,264	46,176	3,848	1,924	1,776	888	
6	40,720	75,332	6,278	3,139	2,898	1,449	52,936	4,412	2,206	2,036	1,018	
7	45,920	84,952	7,080	3,540	3,268	1,634	59,696	4,975	2,488	2,296	1,148	
8	51,120	94,572	7,881	3,941	3,638	1,819	66,456	5,538	2,769	2,556	1,278	
For each additional family member add	5,200	9,620	802	401	370	185	6,760	564	282	260	130	
HAWAII												
1	13,550	25,068	2,089	1,045	965	483	17,615	1,468	734	678	339	
2	18,330	33,911	2,826	1,413	1,305	653	23,829	1,986	993	917	459	
3	23,110	42,754	3,563	1,782	1,645	823	30,043	2,504	1,252	1,156	578	
4	27,890	51,597	4,300	2,150	1,985	993	36,257	3,022	1,511	1,395	698	
5	32,670	60,440	5,037	2,519	2,325	1,163	42,471	3,540	1,770	1,634	817	
6	37,450	69,283	5,774	2,887	2,665	1,333	48,685	4,058	2,029	1,873	937	
7	42,230	78,126	6,511	3,256	3,005	1,503	54,899	4,575	2,288	2,112	1,056	
8	47,010	86,969	7,248	3,624	3,345	1,673	61,113	5,093	2,547	2,351	1,176	
For each additional family member add	4,780	8,843	737	369	341	171	6,214	518	259	239	120	

AUTHORITY: Section 9(b)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)).

Jeffrey J. Tribiano
Acting Administrator
Food and Nutrition Service

___March 26, 2015___
Date

[FR Doc. 2015-07358 Filed: 3/30/2015 08:45 am; Publication Date: 3/31/2015]